



**Wayne Newell and Blanche Sockabasin**

## **Meet Wayne Newell**

Wayne Newell makes things happen. As an educational activist and scholar of Native traditions, Wayne has been involved in politics, education, economic development and language revitalization among the Passamaquoddy over the last four decades.

Growing up at Indian Township, the Passamaquoddy Reservation near Princeton, Maine, Wayne was raised by his grandmother who taught him to be proud of his people and culture. They spoke to each other only in Passamaquoddy! His great-grandfather was Lewis Mitchell, a Tribal Representative to the Maine State Legislature who gave a stirring, historic speech about Passamaquoddy rights in 1887. Following in the footsteps of these two remarkable people, Wayne has worked tirelessly to create economic and political opportunities, and keep Native languages and cultural traditions alive for Passamaquoddy and other Native peoples.

Wayne was educated at Harvard University and was one of the first Passamaquoddy people to go to college. Later, he was a Wabanaki delegate to the First Eastern Indian Conference in Washington, DC. He became the president of the Northeastern Blueberry Company, a very successful Passamaquoddy business, and fought for Wabanaki rights during the 1980 Maine Land Claims Settlement Case. Today, he is the Passamaquoddy Native Language and Culture Coordinator and speaks all around the United States and other countries about his work. His latest efforts convinced the Maine Department of Education to certify teachers of Wabanaki languages, so that Wabanaki students today can learn to speak their Native languages in the classroom.